

CLAIMS

1. (original) A combination ring and object holder comprising:
a ring adapted to be worn by an individual;
a spring secured at a lower distal end thereof to said ring; and
a coupling member adapted to receive and retain an object and secured to an upper distal end of said spring.
2. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said coupling member defines an opening to receive and retain an article of candy.
3. (amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 21,
b1 ~~wherein the article of candy is~~ and further comprising a lollipop having a stick, the lollipop-stick of said lollipop being received and retained in the ~~an~~ opening defined by said coupling member.
4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said coupling member has a smooth upper surface.
6. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein the upper distal end of said spring is threaded through a channel defined by said coupling

member such that approximately one coil of the upper distal end of said spring is enclosed within said channel.

7. (amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said ring has a ~~substantively~~ substantially flat upper surface, the lower distal end of said spring being secured to the substantially flat upper surface of said ring.

8. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 7, wherein said ring also has a substantially circular lower portion oriented substantially perpendicular to said upper surface and adapted to be worn by an individual.

9. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 8, wherein the substantially circular portion of said ring is comprised of two independent prongs.

10. (amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said ring is composed of ~~molded~~ plastic.

11. (amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, and further comprising a spring base plate interposed between the lower distal end of said spring and a ~~substantively~~ substantially flat upper surface of said ring.

12. (amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 11,

wherein the lower distal end of said spring is threaded through an opening defined by said spring base plate such that approximately one coil of the lower distal end of said spring is secured between said spring base plate and the ~~substantively~~ substantially flat upper surface of said ring.

13. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 1, wherein said spring is a plastic helical spring.

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14. (amended) A combination ring and object holder comprising:
a ring having a ~~substantively~~ substantially flat upper surface and a circular lower portion oriented substantially perpendicular to said upper surface and adapted to be worn by an individual;
a spring secured at a lower distal end thereof to the substantially flat upper surface of said ring; and
a coupling member adapted to receive and retain an object and secured to an upper distal end of said spring.

15. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 14, wherein said coupling member defines an opening to receive and retain an article of candy.

16. (amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim ~~15~~ 14, ~~wherein the article of candy is~~ and further comprising a lollipop having a stick, the ~~lollipop-stick~~ of said lollipop being received and retained in the ~~an~~ opening defined by said coupling member.

17. (amended) A combination ring and object holder comprising:
a ring adapted to be worn by an individual;
a spring base plate secured to a ~~substantively~~ substantially flat upper surface of
said ring;
a spring secured at a lower distal end thereof to said spring base plate; and
a coupling member adapted to receive and retain an object and secured to an
upper distal end of said spring.

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18. (amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 17,
wherein the lower distal end of said spring is threaded through an opening defined by said spring
base plate such that approximately one coil of said spring is secured between said spring base
plate and the ~~substantively~~ substantially flat upper surface of said ring.

19. (original) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 17, wherein
the coupling member defines an opening to receive and retain an article of candy.

20. (amended) The combination ring and object holder as recited in claim 17, ~~wherein~~
~~the article of candy is~~ and further comprising a lollipop having a stick, the lollipop-stick of said
lollipop being received and retained in the an opening defined by said coupling member.